RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

December, 1993 - January, 1994 *232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493*

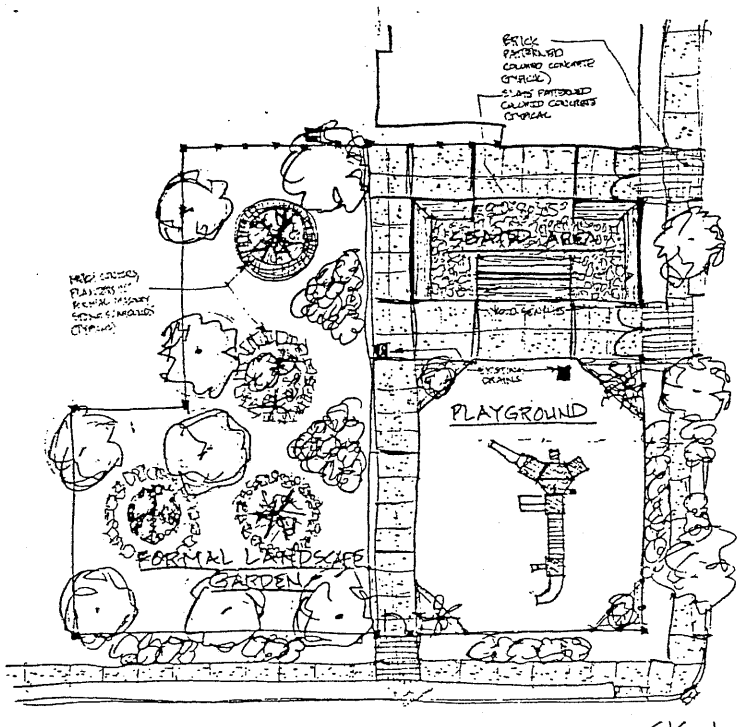
RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL

Plans for New Neighborhood Park

For the past several months, RNA has been discussing the design and construction of a new neighborhood park to be located on the corner of Ogden Avenue and Cuneo Place. Councilwoman Nancy Gaynor has supported this effort by coordinating the project with the City's Engineering Department. Three different designs have been drawn up for the neighborhood to choose between for the best layout of a playground, a seating area and a formal landscaped garden. This park will be totally enclosed within a seven foot fence. (This fence is actually in place around the property at present.)

The design shown below (known as SK-1) is the most favored by the local residents around the park, RNA members, and Councilwoman Gaynor. According to the Councilwoman, the City plans to begin construction in the spring of 1994. RNA has proposed that the park be dedicated and named after local resident Janet Moore because of her many community efforts, especially fighting for more open space in Ward C.

(Continued on page two)



PROPOSED PARK LAYOUT PLAN SK-1

SCALE: 1"=10'-0"

HOLIDAY FOOD & TOY DRIVE

This is your last chance to contribute to the RNA annual holiday drive for food and toys for the less fortunate. Please bring your items of nonperishable foods stuffs or toys (either new or used but unbroken) to our December 14th meeting.

Cash donations will be accepted and disbursed as the donor wishes. Please call Maria at 659-2245 after 6 p.m. for other drop-off locations. These items will be given to the Salvation Army for distribution during the holiday season.

ANNUAL HARBOR VIEW PARTY

Volunteers are needed for this year's Holiday Party for the senior residents of the Harbor View Health Care Center. The party will be held on Friday, December 17th between the hours of 1:30-4:30 pm. In addition to our usual musical entertainment, Charles Trefurt, principal of P.S. 8, has promised to bring two classes of children to entertain the residents.

Volunteers are needed to serve refreshments and help entertain the guests at this annual holiday get-together of the residents and the neighborhood. Donations of dietetic baked goods are needed. If you can help in anyway, please attend the December meeting to assist in the planning. (Monetary donations are also being accepted.)

COMING EVENTS

****HOLIDAY REMINDERS****

1) Party for Harbor View Residents: Friday, Dec.17th from 1:30-4:30 pm.

2) Christmas Caroling: Sunday, Dec. 19th, at 6:30 pm starting in Riverview-Fiske Park

RNA MEETINGS: THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:15 PM
AT THE HARBOR VIEW HEALTH CARE CENTER

A) DECEMBER 14TH MEETING
1) RNA HOLIDAY PARTY FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS
2) ANNUAL FOOD AND TOY DRIVE

B) JANUARY 11TH MEETING: First meeting of the new year, 1994

(continued from page one)

In November, there was a meeting of the resident architects in our neighborhood to discuss this park proposal. Randy Sanford, Hank Cesari and Ted Conrad looked at the three designs and made the following recommendations:

a) the plan, identified as SK-1 was favored over the other two ideas because it was regarded as a better use of the space (the other two designs, known as SK-2 and SK-3 are illustrated below),

b) the two gates opening unto Cuneo Place should be eliminated, so that the only entrance gate is located on Ogden Avenue,

c) with the elimination of the Cuneo Place gate, the west side of the Park should be screened from the adjoining apartment building by extending the formal landscaped garden along the western perimeter,

d) the prohibition of advertising billboards on the wall of the adjoining apartment building,

e) the extension of the walkways through the formal landscaped garden,

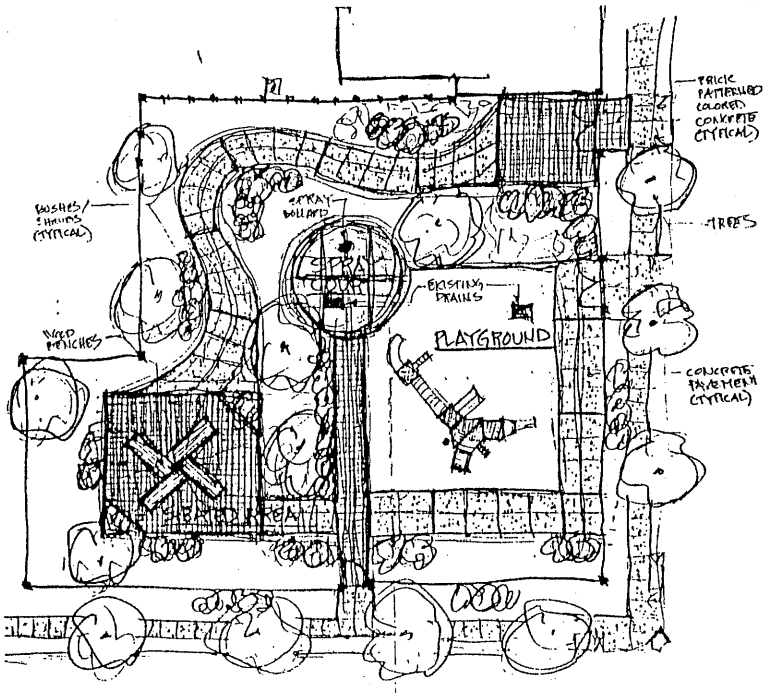
f) the use of dense shrubs - and not trees - in the playground area,

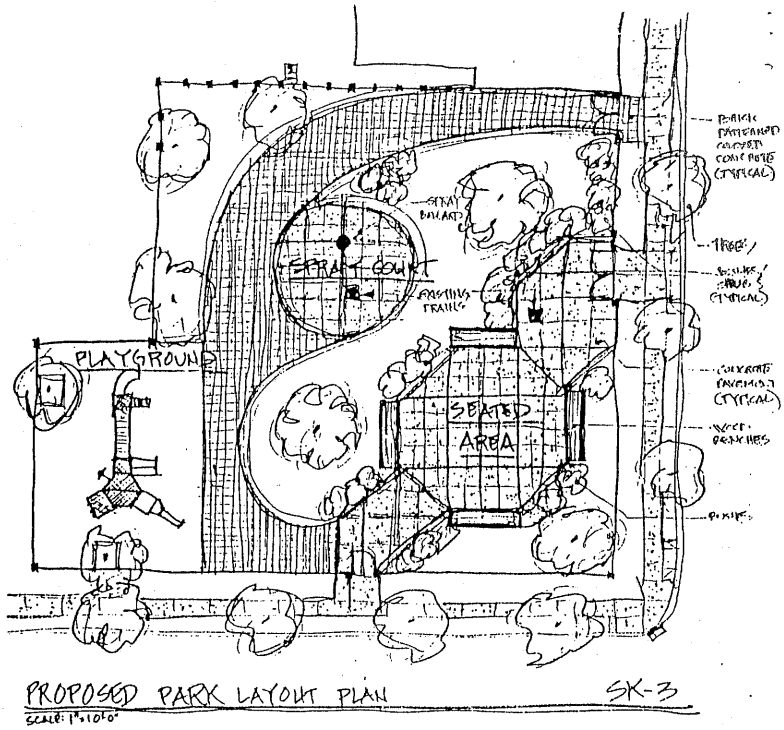
g) the planting of large trees - instead of smaller ones - in the formal landscaped garden,

h) because of the elimination of the gate on Cuneo Place and the extension of the garden along the western perimeter, the seating area should have a continuous wooden bench in the shape of a "C", and

i) a major concern was the recognition by the City that this new Park must be properly maintained by the Parks Division and regularly patrolled by the Police Department.

All this has generated much excitement in the neighborhood because the City has finally recognized the need to renovate this area and provide open space for the children and families that live here.





PARK COMMITTEES

During the November meeting, two Park commiittees were formed to take more community control of development and maintenance of our two neighborhood Parks: the new "Janet Moore" Park and Riverview-Fisk Park.

Dorothy Rosario, of Ogden Avenue, has volunteered to head the Riverview-Fisk Park Committee. If anyone is interested in helping improve Riverview-Fiske, please call Dorothy at 792-9352. All volunteers and donations of tools, plants, supplies will be gladly accepted. The first project organized was the planting of a bulb garden in the center island in the Park with bulbs, gardening material and tools donated by the Incinerator Authority. (Thank you, Tom Killeen!)

Jean Buzzard of Ogden Avenue has volunteered to organize a park committee for the "Janet Moore" Park at Cuneo Place. Her telephone number is 795-1205. Again, volunteers are needed to begin the process of reclaiming this part of our neighborhood from neglect and abuse.

Finally, Tom Hart, director of the new Department of Leisure Activities, is promoting his "Adopt-A-Park" program for all the neighborhood parks in Jersey City. This concept involves a local commercial sponsor, or group of sponsors, adopting one park to help finance the park's development and maintenance. This can include planting of gardens to organizing musical events for the local neighborhoods. At this time, Christ Hospital has expressed interest in sponsoring the "Janet Moore" Park.

MEETING MINUTES: *November 9, 1993*

The annual holiday party sponsored by RNA members for residents of Harbor View will take place on Friday , December 17, 1993 from 1:30-4:30 pm. Volunteers, dietectic baked goods and monetary donations are welcome, of course.

Christmas caroling wil take place on Sunday December 19th at 6:30 pm. all those interested in participating should meet at the Gazebo at 6:30 and bring a flashlight.

Vito Brunetti discussed the status of several projects that RNA has initiated with Councilpeople Nancy Gaynor and Bill Gaughn, including the reopening of the two cliff roads, additional lighting on Palisade Avenue, and garbage problems on Palisade Avenue. (See Community Updates for further information.)

Officer Steve Collier of the North District attended the November meeting in Officer Andrew Lancellotti's absence. He passed out copies of a memo from Captain Kane outlining the reduction of crime in the North District over the past few years. Residents are urged to call the North District Desk (547-5350, 5359) with any complaints and problems that the the community police officers can handle.

Harry Schwartz, community representative for Christ Hospital, was a guest speaker. He discussed Christ Hospital's offer to help secure the newly proposed Park at Ogden Avenue and Cuneo Place. The Hospital's security force would be responsible for opening and closing the enclosed park each day. This proposal generated a lot of discussion about the Hospital's reasons for doing this and its ulterior motives.

In addition there was a general discussion about the need for citizen participation in maintaining our own neighborhood parks - this new park and our own Riverview-Fisk Park. Two park committees were formed - each one to organize programs for each Park.

Finally, preparations were started for the RNA holiday party to be celebrated on December 14th at the next monthly meeting. So please come, bring a friend and some festive food or non-alcoholic drink!

Suzanne Maroon, Secretary

COMMUNITY UPDATES

Holland Street is officially open and everyone is urged to use it so we don't lose it. The road is a one-way street going from east to west: that means a person driving on Patterson Plank Road can enter Holland Street to get to Palisade Avenue and Bowers Street. Garbage and parked cars are to be reported immediately to the proper authorities.

Unfortunately, **Mountain Road** is unable to be reopened immediately because of its present condition. But due to the efforts of our Councilpeople Tom DeGise, Bill Gaughn and Nancy Gaynor, both Holland Street and Mountain Road have been inspected by the City's Engineering Department for the purpose of estimating what it will cost to renovate both roads. Both reconstruction projects will require extensive renovations, including drainage, tubular steel fencing, sidewalks, guard rails and a resetting of the cobblestones for a part of Mountain Road.

Holland Street will cost approximately $150,000.00 to renovate. In addition, the rehabilitation of the Ogden Avenue bridge will cost approximately $140,000.00. (The funding for this one project will probably come from either Hudson County or NJDOT because it is technically county property.

Mountain Road will cost approximately $570,000.00 to renovate completely. The City is planning to renovate this road over a series of a few years.

A request was put in to have Public Service install additional overhead **street lights on Palisade Avenue** from Cuneo Place to Congress Street. Councilman Bill Gaughn is pushing this process along despite the reluctance of the Engineering Department and PSE&G.

Certain apartment buildings on Palisade Avenue (# 385, 389, 445, 454) continue to have **maintenance problems**. Formal complaints have been made regarding the garbage continuously in front off, and the general lack of upkeep of these properties. In addition, the Jersey City Incinerator Authority has just hired new sanitation inspectors who will specifically target problem areas in the City .

On Tuesday, October 26, 1993, there was a **condemnation hearing for 234-236 Ogden Avenue**. Although the owner, Norman Wilson made commitments to secure and maintain the property until February, 1994 (when he is required to begin renovation on the existing buildings), nothing has been done to date to improve the deteriorating state of the structures. Construction Official Michael Regan of the Building Division is now in the process of taking Wilson to court to compel him to secure and maintain the property.

Vito Brunetti

MEETING WITH COUNCILPERSON GAYNOR

On Saturday, November 13, 1993 a group of RNA members and other community residents met with Councilwoman Nancy Gaynor to discuss the part of our neighborhood that is contained within Warrd C. (The residential blocks of Palisade and Ogden Avenues south of Franklin Street are part of Ward C.) The majority of the conversation centered around the construction of the corner park on Cuneo Place and Ogden Avenue. (See Park article on page one.)

In addition, the following problems and concerns were discussed:

1) the official status and future plans for the cliff property known as Tumulty Park, located at the southern end of Ogden Avenue, off of Cuneo Place,

2) the repair of the fencing at the above site and along the length of New York Avenue (especially at the sharp bend in the road),

3) the cleaning of the garbage and debris on the cliff along New York Avenue, that is constantly thrown out of the windows of the building located at 266 Palisade Avenue (known as Belvedere Court),

4) the status of the lot located at 38 Booraem Avenue and the cleaning of the lot and the repair of the perimeter fencing,

5) the cleaning of the closed Mountain Road, located at Ogden Avenue and Franklin Street, and the repair of the PSEG street lights on the Road,

6) the status of the plans for renovation of Sgt. Anthony Park, located on Palisade Avenue and coordination with the local residents for review and recommendations of that renovation, and

7) the status of the A & P store located on Palisade Avenue, now that the new A&P super store has opened in North Bergen on Kennedy Blvd.

AN OPINION

Christ Hospital recently made RNA an offer to help sponsor the newly proposed park to be located on Ogden Avenue and Cuneo Place. This offer included a member of their security team closing the park each night at 10:00 pm and then reopening it the next morning. As part of the newly proposed Adopt-A-Park concept, the Hospital would also be responsible for providing funding for community activities such as garden projects and organized events for the local community.

At first glance this offer looks too good to be true. And maybe it is just that - too good to be true. The Hospital has always had a credibility problem with the local surrounding neighborhoods - despite its efforts at "community outreach." Its plan, a few years ago, to construct a multi-story parking garage on the Palisade cliff was defeated by strong community opposition to the project. (Unfortunately, the Hospital has recently made known that it is planning to reintroduce a modified garage proposal to the City's planning board in the spring of 1994.)

The basic problem with the Hospital's development plans is that they are directly contrary to the existence of the residential community surrounding its property. This community of brownstones, multifamily and single-family houses is slowing being eaten up by the ever-expanding Hospital. It buys the individual properties and then eventually converts them into non-residential buildings for hospital business or demolishes them entirely and constructs new structures.

Another serious problem is the resulting traffic in the area due to the expansion of Hospital services. This is evidenced by the inceased congestion and build-up of cars along Palisade Avenue. A scarcity of parking in the immediate area is caused by both employees and visitors using street parking spaces to avoid the Hospital's parking fees. Finally there is the increased danger of air pollution because of all the cars. Another real fear is that if Christ Hospital receives permission to build its multi-level garage, the increased traffic will cause the City to consider eliminating street parking entirely along Palisade Avenue - causing a hardship for all the local residents who park their cars on the street.

To their credit, the Hospital has stabilized the area in terms of crime and property values. It is the only hospital in the Heights in case of local emergencies. But that does not justify their systematic plan to eliminate the families that live in the local community and create a gigantic parking complex on the cliff for their own use.

The most recent crisis between the Hospital and the community centers around the Hospital's demolition of a building on Palisade Avenue. With what appears to be a total lack of concern for the adjoining building located at 288 Palisade Avenue, the Hospital's demolition crew tore down their own structure to make way for a new office building. Unfortunately, the structural integrity of 288 Palisade was damaged by this demolition because the two buildings were literally a few feet apart. The damage was such that the City ordered the residents of 288 Palisade to be evacuted until the Hopsital repairs the structure.

How incredible this situation is! With structures as old and close together as the buildings are on Palisade Avenue, one would assume that a qualified construction crew would plan to avoid or at least minimize any damaging effects on the surrounding structures. It seems like just another example of the insenstivity of the Hospital to the well-being of this residential community.

Now, to get back to the issue of Christ Hospital as a possible sponsor for our new neighborhood park. It seems self-evident, at least to this writer, that the Hospital's real motive in making this offer is to win the support of the community and the City for any of its future plans of expansion. It is indeed interesting to note that there is a neglected pocket park - in the immediate vicinty of the Hospital, known as Sgt. Anthony Park. The Hospital is either totally unaware of it or else does not think it worth while to sponsor Sgt. Anthony, even though it is part of the Hospital's own neighborhood. That in and of itself is suspicious. If the Hospital is so concerned with its cultivating its neighbors, one would assume it would help them.

If the Hospital's offer is to be seriously considered, there should be a written agreement drawn up between the City, RNA and the Hospital. This agreement should spell out the exact terms of the sponsorship and the prohibition of the Park's use by the Hospital for its own purposes, including publicity for its community outreach projects.

Vito Brunetti

THE NEW CHAIR: *To Serve & Protect*

Crime looks like the flavor of the month in Washington, D.C. around now. The National Crime Bill passed and so did the Brady Gun Control Bill. The elections in November indicated the voters put crime as a high priority in their decision on whom to vote for and Washington was quick to catch on. Community-based policing is becoming a commonly used term. Handgun control is moving closer to being under the auspices of the federal government because of the patchwork affect of state laws nationwide. The common denominator is that it affects everyone and people are getting tired and frightened enough to say "Whoa! Let's finally do something radically different or we will go down the tubes as a nation."

Texas voters passed a referendum that increases their taxes to build more prisons - which means they are serious enough to cough up more of their hard earned money for a single purpose. That purpose being that if an individual is convicted of a crime, then they will go to jail with no leniency because of overcrowding, plea bargaining down the sentence, or getting reduced jailtime.

We now have community-based policing (C. B.P.) in Jersey City and hope it will expand citywide with the addition of 300 officers. Up here in the Heights, with an approximate population of 75,000 people, the Police Department has been doing a phenomenal task in increasing arrests and reducing crimes that are being committed (which hopefully is the result of the other). But as good as a reduction is, there is still crime and only with the further expansion of the CBP program will the numbers continue to decrease.

What about those often heard statements like "Where is a cop when you need one" or "I never see any patrols pass in front of where I live" or "What walking patrol officer are you talking about, I have never seen him"? Well, I just burn up when I hear someone making those statements! Let's face the fact that you don't sit

outside your residence 24 hours a day counting patrols that pass by on foot, scooters or cars.

Most law abiding citizens take the police for granted most of the time except when they are a victim of a crime or see a crime take place. Then they scream "Where's a cop when you need one!" Well they have a job to do just like most of us. They take lunch, get sick, have vacations and holidays just like everyone else. In addition, they go to trials, fill out paperwork, and escort prisoners. The police officer's workshift is never the same from day to day. They deal with society's problems like murders, natural deaths, assaults, family disputes, homeless people, assisting crime victims and helping accident victims until the EMS arrives. They do all this under a constitutional system of rules and regulations to protect the individual citizen from abuse. Finally they are sometimes targets themselves from the criminals they are supposed to protect us against.

The police do a tough job. Yes, they are human and are capable of errors of judgment but that is why they are supervised. Looking at their place in society, one should look at the police not just as an municipal employee but more importantly as an integral part of our community's foundation.

Ernest Quintero, Chair

COMMUNITY POLICING IS A PARTNERSHIP

Community policeperson Officer Andrew Lancellotti attends RNA monthly meetings to find out about any local problems or concerns of the neighborhood. He encourages all citizens to talk to him either during the public portion of the meeting, or if necessary in private.

In addition, if there is a more immediate problem, he can be reached on duty by calling the North District desk at 547-5350 or 5359. Leave a message for him and he will return the call as soon as possible.

CONRAD'S CORNER

At the present rate of development in our metropolitan area, the population growth in a 35-mile area around Manhattan will be 200 million - which is 5 million short of the entire population of Canada. It will become too expensive to build a 2 1/2 billion dollar transit system for the area. we'll have to chase 5 million people out to reduce density in order to survive. Most importantly, government and businesses will have to take off their blinders and recognize the seriousness of overdevelopment without restraint. It will take firm and swift measures to stop it.

Frank Lloyd Wright with his broad acres planning scheme conceived a spread-out lowrise city with highrisers half a mile apart to allow for a mobile open space to be served by the automobile. Highrise planning without a real plan can no longer be tolerated in a modern city of the future by greedy planners.

A broad acres planned city of the future will ward off a depression of the future if we don't keep overbuilding our unplanned cities, no amount of mass transit will be able to serve it efficiently at a low cost.

(Reprint of a November 27, 1989 Letter to the Editor in the Jersey Journal.)

LETTER TO THE EDITOR:
We Need a Fence to Enclose the Playground

Dear friends,

I am a mother of a toddler who walks fifteen blocks to use the playground equipment in the newly renovated Riverview-Fisk Park because this Park and its facilities are the ones closest to our home. Therefore I am concerned about keeping it safe and clean not only for my child but for the other children and families I see there on a regular basis.

I feel there is a great need for an extension to the existing fence so that the benches and playground equipment in the northwest corner of the Park might be enclosed. This would ease the burden of the mothers with more than one child who visit the Park. As it is, children are tempted to wander away from the play area, and possibly into traffic on Palisade Avenue. A playground completely enclosed by a fence with one gate would secure this potentially hazardous situation.

An enclosed fence would also keep pets and stray animals away from the area children frequent, thereby keeping them safe, and the area they play in free of unsanitary conditions. The enforcement of the ordinance requiring that pets be curbed in the Park is problematic at best. This is a great concern to the community. My daughter and I walk fifteen blocks because here, in the inner city, it is virtually the closest open area of grass we can find. It is painful to see such an oasis to go to the dogs.

If there are any other concerned parents that would like to support this effort for a new fence, please come to the next meeting of RNA. I am sure that once the proper officials realize the potential dangers of this situation they will be able to implement this simple solution to the satisfaction of all the families who use this playground on a daily basis.

Robin Petrick
Palisade Avenue

FRAN REMEMBERS: *Louisiana*

Looking through my bookcase the other day I came across a little book called "Arrow Book of States." I suddenly got the idea of writing an article about some of the states I have visited. I picked one at random and chose to tell you, the reader, about Louisiana. I chose this state but actually I loved them all.

Louisiana became the 18th state in our Union in 1812. It is called the Pelican State. From frogs to fish, Louisiana is a land of "most." It grows more sugar cane than any state but Hawaii. More muskrats are trapped in its swamps than in Canada and our other states combined. One of the biggest catches of fish is taken by Louisiana fishermen from the Gulf of Mexico. There are more frogs in Louisiana than any other state. And the greatest variety of game birds in the United States can be found there - many of them living in large wild life sanctuaries.

It's main cities are deep water ports - New Orleans, Lake Charles, and the capital city of Baton Rouge. The state's largest city is New Orleans and one of the nation's major ports. About a hundred years ago, steamboats carried goods and passengers up the Mississippi River to St. Louis in Missouri. Today, ships

sail from New Orleans with cotton, sugar, and oil for ports in both nearby and faraway lands.

The United States government bought the Louisiana Territory from France in 1803 for fifteen million dollars. Louisiana was one of the 15 new states or part of states that were formed from this territory.

The French influence is still so strong that New Orleans has been called the "Paris of America." The old French Quarter in the city, the Vieux Carrie is known for its restaurants and shops. New Orleans is also famous for the Mardi Gras festival. People wear bold, colorful costumes in wonderful parades and pageants. Even the lampposts of New Orleans dress up for the Mardi Gras. This carnival takes place every year before Lent. It was introduced by French colonists long ago. The name Mardi Gras means "Fat Tuesday" in French - a time for feasting and fun.

I shall try to recount some of my personal recollections of the state. New Orleans is built on filled-in land. The story they tell is about a Jewish builder who bought all the land because he was in love with a Christian girl, although they never got together. The City itself is sinking slowly and its people watch the weak spots very carefully.

The Quarter is made up of narrow streets with bars blasting jazz music and good restaurants and shops. Even so, it is not safe to go through the Quarter at night because they have muggings, just like we do but even more so with all the tourists. We stayed in a nice motel in the Quarter and I was told by the deskclerk to leave my jewelry and valuables in the motel vault. It is a very clean city. They hose down the streets every morning and the people are constantly mopping and cleaning their houses because of all the tourists. One can imagine how much money comes into the City from the tourists.

You can take a bus tour or if you prefer a trolley which goes into the suburbs. The more affluent people live in large homes shaded by plants and trees. The houses are so covered with foliage that you can hardly see them. The most famous iron fences in the United States are in New Orleans. Every home is surrounded by large iron fences and gates costing thousands of dollars. I had to see these fences which have their owner's initials on them. It is something very beautiful to see homes covered in foliage and surrounded by gorgeous iron work.

At the waterfront in New Orleans they still have the large blocks where the slaves were once tied to be sold. There are small cafe tables where one can have something to eat and just pass the time of day. There is also a boat which cruises on the Mississippi River, but time was very precious to me and I could not do that. A beautiful Catholic Church is located near the docks which everyone visits. They show you where Tennessee Williams had his apartment on the second floor in the Quarter.

They do not bury their dead because of the filled-in land but the cemeteries are very beautiful. Families have their own small mausoleums which are about the size of a small tool shed. They are very beautiful and ornate and families have them for generations. They just put in the ashes of their loved ones whom they have lost.

The people are very Catholic in Louisiana. They are also very French because of their heritage. These cajun country people are descended from Arcanian French immigrants. In Lafayette, I saw the tree that Gabriel and Evangeline stood under. These are only some of the many wonderful memories I have of this exciting part of our country. I recommend that you take a trip and see New Orleans and Louisiana for yourself.

Frances Santoro.

TIME WAS

1. When you could walk the streets without being mugged, or worse.
2. Sit on your stoop without fear.
3. When there were two theatres in the neighborhood.
4. A dance hall once located where the Harbor View now stands called the Grotto.
5. Two lovely ice cream parlors located on Central Avenue.
6. When children respected their elders.
7. When family and friends would visit and sing around the piano.

This generation is not so lucky!

Josephine Allegretto

MY EXPERIENCES: Holidays

Thanksgiving parade and the arrival of Santa Claus was no sooner over , when at our house we started preparing for Christmas. My sisters would busy themselves with all the cleaning and household chores. Mom started her holiday shopping in preparation for the baking of cookies and making her own liqueurs. We didn't get into gift buying too much because we just were glad to get the essentials, plus maybe one little toy. A lot of the things we got through the saving of the Octagon or Kirkman soap coupons. It got to be quite a joke as we said we had gotten everything we had with those coupons.

I especially liked the last day before Christmas vacation when the nuns at school gave out little boxes of Xmas hard candies.When they announced that we could get another box if we washed the blackboards and clapped the erasers, I would be the first to stand up for the job. What we lacked in gifts, was made up for in love and good food.

The tree was a fresh one and we would set it out on the fire escape until a few days before Christmas. Then we would bring it inside, set it in water and start to trim it. The big thing for my mom was the setting up of the Nativity scene with hills and mountains. Each year it got a little larger and took up one corner of the living room.

On Christmas morning we would act surprised at the little gifts and sweets we found in the stockings we had hung up. We would hope and pray for snow at Christmastime so we could go sleigh riding on Stevens' hill.

When Christmas was over and the New Year eve was approaching, we were told we could not stay up for the bells at midnight if we didn't take a nap. When New Year's Eve came at the strike of twelve, Keuffel & Esser and the other factories around would sound their whistles and the ferries their horns. We would go down into the streets and ring in the New Year with the biggest covers from our pots and pans to make a lot of noise.

When this was over, we would settle down for some snacks and coffee or tea. We also had to have some herring and grapes for good luck. Sometimes we would run over to our neighbor's home to wish them a Happy New Year. my one neighbor would call me to make sure to come in after the bells because it was supposed to be good luck for a dark-haired person to be the first to enter in the new year. These were pleasant memories I will always remember.

Jack F. Rea

Christmas Bells

an original poem by Maria Tuzzo

Each year at Christmas season
We all can see and hear
The happy part that bells play
At this special time of year.

The tinkling of the small bells
That make a package bright
The clarion sound of church bells
Ringing in the night.

The steady clang of hand bells
Played by Santas in the street
The gold and silver jeweled bells
Worn by ladies that we meet.

The bells that ping at storefronts
As we enter and we leave
The single chime of altar bells
As mass on Christmas Eve.

The bells that shine on Christmas trees
Or those that hang on walls
And some that cling to branches
Used to decorate the halls.

No matter what the size of tone
They make it very clear
It just wouldn't be a Christmas
Without bells to see and hear.

Putting Away the Tree Ornaments

by Mary Reeves Mahoney

Now we arrange them like fancy chocolates in their boxes.
Treasured baubles, tissued, nestled.
They are the glittering links between Christmases past.

Will we not reminisce next year as we unwrap the one-winged angel?
The gold reflecting ball which steadfastly confides its shattered backside to the wall?

Pack lovingly. Joyous memories want cherishing.
Let the spun-glass flowers sleep snug beneath some extra cotton snow.

(submitted by Gert Bogdan)

An original holiday poem

by Mrs. Marie Tuzzo

Christmas, Christmas, Christmas
What a beautiful time of year this is.
Santa Claus and jingle bells,
Happy children and presents as well.
Greetings to all our friends,
Wishing this time of year never ends.

DECEMBER

December - the month of joy, xmas trees, goodies, xmas presents, family gatherings, birth of the Christ child and of course, the holiday party for the Harbor View.
Merry Christmas & a Healthy, Happy New Year to all!

Madeline Tuzzo Rea

GET WELL WISHES

RNA wishes Mrs. Marie Tuzzo good health and a speedy recovery from a stay in Christ Hospital during the month of November. She is home now and, at last report, is sucessfully recuperating. Mrs Tuzzo, is this year's Sgt.-at-Arms and one of RNA's original members. As usual, she was responsible for collating and preparing our newsletter for mailing this month. You just can't keep a good lady down.

RNA members Gert Bogdan and Ted Conrad have also spent some time in the hospital durng this past year . Therefore at this holiday season we would like to wish all our neighbors and friends and their families - GOOD HEALTH IN THE NEW YEAR!

CONTRIBUTE TO OUR NEWSLETTER

RNA is always soliciting material for our newsletter. We are interested in anything you as our readers are interested in. Would you like to thank someone? Maybe you would like to complain about something. How about suggestions to help improve our neighborhood or City?

There's always a recipe, whether it is a family heirloom or something you just found out about. Creative writing is always wanted - whether it is a poem, a short story or a memory about a local event or person.

Drop off contributions in the mailbox, attached to the gate, at 232 Ogden Avenue. Mark the envelope, "RNA NEWSLETTER."

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to announce the official expansion of the northern boundaries of the Riverview Neighborhood Association from Bowers Street to Congress Street on both Palisade and Ogden Avenues. (Riverview Neighborhood Association will now represent residents living on Palisade and Ogden Avenues from Congress Street to Cuneo Place.) Adopted: December 12, 1992

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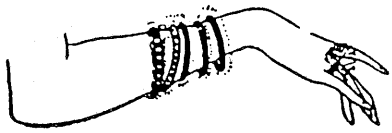

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PLEASE COME TO THE ANNUAL RNA
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ON TUESDAY, DECEMBER 14TH

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CHRISTMAS CAROLING

RNA is going Christmas caroling again this year. Please join us in wishing our friends and neighbors a joyous holiday greeting in music and song. We will meet at the park pavilion in **Riverview-Fisk Park at 6:30 P.M. on Sunday, December 19th.** The pavilion is located on Ogden Avenue between Griffith and Bowers Streets. Dress warmly with proper clothing and footwear. Printed songsheets will be handed out, so please bring a flashlight.

If you are unable to walk with us for this holiday activity, please welcome the carolers to your house by turning on your house lights or the Christmas decorations. It would indeed be a neighborly gesture if you invited the carolers inside for some hot refreshments.